

22
L--d *L--t's* Second ANSWER

TO

D--n F--s, L- P--'s LETTER.

DECEMBER 20, 1745.



L O N D O N:

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I Received a Letter under your L—— Name of the 28th of October, which I answered immediately : But upon serious Reflection, and finding your L—— Letter is made publick, I am afraid that by the Hurry I was in, I neither did myself nor your L—— Justice in my Answer. For in whatever Light I can consider either of us, I can find nothing in that scandalous Scrole becoming your L—— to write, or me to have it address'd to me, so that I have too much Charity for your L—— to think you capable of it, especially since I can find no Reason to induce me to believe that it came from you, but the Similitude of the Hand, which I know as well as your L—— to be a very fallacious Proof, and having upon the other Hand so many and strong Reasons to incline me to think the contrary. For let me consider your L—— and myself in all the different Capacities belonging to us, if I look upon Mr. *Forbes* of C——, supposing him a Cadet of the honourable Family whose Name he bears, and for whom I have always had the Esteem due to their antient Descent, and Services done their K—— and C——. I say supposing him a Cadet of that or any other Family, addressing himself to L—— L——'s Chief of as great and honourable a Family in every Shape, I should be at a Loss to find a Term fit for the Stile of the Letter in question ; to call it high and imperious would be an Epithet adapted to an inferiour Writing to one above him ; to call it bold and daring, no body perhaps would think it, more than I do, well adapted to the Author, whose Hand, whoever knows him would be perswaded, would tremble too much to be able to put his Name to such a Letter, had he any Notion of a Possibility of ever coming withing the Reach of the Sword, as well as the Pen of him to whom he directed it : Impudent is the justest Term that can and must belong to the real Author, whatever the World may think of the supposed one ; and highly impertinent it proves itself to be, there being not one Thought or Expression in it pertinent either to the Persons, or Subject concern'd. If I look upon this Letter as your L——, and upon you in another Light, as President of a College of Justice, what Colour can be put upon it to make it appear probable ? Weakness is what the World was ever so far from accusing your L—— of, that it always inclined to rank you amongst those of the opposite Extream ; and for your Knowledge in Law, it was never look'd upon by any Body inferior to your Justice. How then can a Letter address'd to a Peer of the Kingdom, where so much Weakness and so little Law appears, be ascribed to your L——. Arrogancy and Self-sufficiency, in thinking his own Opinion must be blindly subscribed to by all Mankind, must indeed belong to the real Author be he who he will ; but sure the supposed Author can't imagine, that those who know him will think him entitl'd to those Qualities. If I look upon your L—— again in another Light, as intrusted with the Affairs of the Government in this Part of the Kingdom, as the Letter affirms you to be, and addressing yourself to one who holds so considerable a Rank and Interest in it as I do, and whose Attachment and Services to the Government, I may

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make bold to say have not only equall'd, but much exceeded any the Author of the Letter ever did, or can be capable of doing. I am still more at Loss to find any feasible Pretext to fix it upon your L——.

Could the most inveterate of your Enemies suspect that you have or ever had any sinister Views and Designs against the present Government, your known Dexterity and Abilities in giving the Turn that suits to your Imagination and Expression, might occasion a Doubt in this Case: But as I believe there is not a Man in his Senses who knows you, that can think you was ever capable of forming such a Design; I must conclude, that some malicious, evil-designing Person against the Government, your L—— and me, has contrived this villainous Letter, with a View not only to exasperate those already concerned against the Government, instead of reclaiming them by convincing them of the Lenity of it, but likewise to persuade all *true Scotsmen, Highlanders* especially, who might perhaps never have Thought of joining them, that it is their real Interest so to do, and the only Game they have to play to save them from the Destruction so plainly pointed out equally to the Innocent and Guilty, in this extraordinary Letter: and that he made use of the plausible Name of *Dean Ford* as what makes a great many, perhaps a great deal too many in those parts, swallow down any Thing, without considering or examining whither it came, or, with all the Submission due, whither it ought to come from your L—— or not. But as the Author of this scandalous Piece has made bold with your L——'s Name to patronize it, you'll allow me to make use of the same Freedom in addressing myself to you as supposed Author in the Answer I shall now make to it, by which I shall not only do real Service to the Government, and justify my own Conduct to the World, but by showing the pernicious Consequences that must be drawn from the Principles it contains against the Interest of the Government, I must certainly in the most effectual Manner convince every Body that your L—— could never be the Author.

To begin then my ~~Dubious~~ *Letter*: I should think it were but reasonable you should let me know, as I'm quite a Stranger to it, what Charge your L—— is invested with in the publick Affairs of this Part of the Kingdom, that gives you such Power and Authority over me, before you assumed the Liberty of treating me in the Manner you do, whereby you effectually not only risque, but expose very much your Reputation, as well as betray the Trust reposed in you, and the Fidelity you owe his Majesty as a good Subject, which you seem in the Letter to be so fond of preserving; which I shall endeavour to prove.

And first, as to your Reputation, you presume to tell me that my Inclination and Intentions, with regard to this Insurrection, are no longer dark nor dubious to us; what *us* means, and what Title your L—— may have to that Monosyllable, in a private Letter, seems mysterious to me, but as I should be loath to carry my Reflections higher to the Prejudice of any Body else, and as it's common for the lowest Persons as well as —— to be most fond of imitating the Stile of the greatest, especially when vested with the least Particle of their Authority. I shall take no further notice of your plurality ship at present, than to assure you, which is saying a great deal, that since ever I had the great Honour and Happiness of knowing you, (for known to you I find I am not yet) I never thought you a more singular Personage than at this very Juncture. For your L—— must allow me with the rest of Mankind, to think that it is no small Piece of Presumption in any Body, from an Opinion of his own Parts and Capacity, how self-conceited

conceited soever he may be, to pretend to penetrate into other Peoples secret Intentions and Inclinations; it's true you are pleas'd to affirm that my Actions evidently prove them; but then unluckily you immediately after acknowledge it as your own Opinion, that it would be very hard to prove one Word that you say. *Strange Evidence that becomes so obscure in a Moment!* But supposing my D—— L—— that my Actions were liable to be more easily attacked than the Truth slip'd from your L—— Pen allows them to be, would not your L——'s Reputation suffer a good deal to seem to be ignorant, that the Actions of the lowest Subject are not to be censured before they are tried and condemned by the Test of the Law? And whatever Dexterity or Practice your L—— may fancy you have in turning that as you think proper, it ought not to encourage you in this Case, since you can't but know, that let my Actions be what they will, your L—— has scarce any Chance of ever being Judge over them, but that they must stand or fall by a somewhat superiour Authority; and that to attack them before that has been decided, is incurring a certain Punishment your L—— can be no Stranger to, tho' not such as I would be glad to inflict. As to the Spies your L—— pretends to have had upon my private Conversation, I believe when they appear, their Characters will be found too scandalous by every unprejudiced Person, to gain any more Credit than their infamous Employer. And there are few Men, I believe, but would be ashamed to boast of so unfair and dishonourable a Proceeding, but there are some People, neither bound by Honour, nor restrain'd by Modesty: Now my D—— L—— as to your Duty as a loyal Subject, and your Fidelity to the Trust repos'd in you, I can't but think, that that, as well as your L—— Reputation and Judgment, must suffer considerably, when, whilst you accuse me of taking off the *Mask*, you forget that you let your own drop, and lay your bad Inclinations and Intentions, if not more than your own, quite open to the most unthinking; for whatever you may imagine my D—— L—— with all your Fineness, &c. they never yet were impenetrable to People of sound Judgment; for not to take more Notice than it deserves of the scurrilous Part of your Letter, nor of your impotent Threats of seizing upon my Person, I shall only mention that you are pleas'd to accuse me of sending my Son with my Men to the *Chevalier*; and why? only because you say I did, which *ipse dixit* to a Man of a vast deal of Modesty, would not appear sufficient to condemn a Peer of the Kingdom, especially when supported by no other Argument, but because forsooth, your L—— can't imagine it can be otherwise. Is it then impossible, in your L—— Opinion, that I should have an undutiful disobedient Son, or reasonable that I should be answerable for his Faults or Follies? that would be very hard indeed, for we oft see the best and wisest of Fathers, as well as the worst, curst with disobedient, undutiful, headstrong Fools for their Children; more than one Instance of which I could bring your L—— from the Beggar to the Crown'd Head, both Foreign and Domestick, Antient and Modern; and it would be as hard to accuse the Fathers, who would have no Fault, if any, but that of getting them, which perhaps in some of those Instances I would cite, would be as hard to prove as your L——'s Plea against me. And yet here am I condemn'd to utter Ruin and Destruction, and my Family to Extirpation with the rest of my Countrymen, only because your L—— says, I am guilty, or possibly might be so; your L—— shows indeed, how well you could plead, if you were inclin'd to it, the Cause of those Gentlemen already en-

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gag'd in this Insurrection, and gives the Reasons you think could be justly alledged in their Behalf; such as their endeavouring to recover all that is most dear and valuable to them, and which, they think they or their Predecessors were unjustly depriv'd of, at, or since the Revolution, and very strong Reasons my L—— I allow them to be; but then let me tell your L——, that by the Strain of your Letter, you seem to exaggerate the Strength and Justice of their Motive, only to show that no Motive, how well soever grounded, is sufficient to plead an Excuse, or entitle an Offender to hope for any *Mercy* in the Case, *in our poor Country*, but that not only the Guilty, but all others who are or may be thought by your L—— or such as you, to be so, or even those that possibly may in Time to come, must be involv'd in the same general Ruin, when you're at Leisure to exert your Power; for nothing else my D— L—— can be understood by the *Extirpation of whole Families and Provinces*. Was not your L——, as I said before, so well known as you are, what would People think, or rather what would they not think; what more artful Method could the greatest Enemy to the present Establishment fall upon than this, not only to confirm all those already engaged in this Affair, but to persuade all others who might possibly be wavering, that, as their Ruin must necessarily be the Consequence of that of the others, that they ought for their own Sakes to prevent both, by strengthening their Party: Nay, it is far from improbable, my D— L——, that amongst the most attach'd to the Government, both by Inclination and Interest; those who may fancy they may have a greater Share of Penetration than others, may be induced to think that the Progression is very natural from destroying a Man for the Faults of his Family, to do it likewise for that of his Country, and so, that in a little Time, a *Scotsman* and a *Jacobite* may become synonymous Terms, especially if try'd by the Standard of Suspicion; and then, what can be left for them, but the poor Hopes of being the *last destroy'd*; or rather, *the most intolerable Punishment of surviving their Country*, tho' but for a Moment: Nay, more my D— L——, I would not answer, but that the Infection of this Way of thinking, might extend itself to our neighbour Nation, I mean the *English*, for the *Irish* by this Time, may perhaps think, they have little or nothing left to fear that way; for if the Friends and Relations of *Jacobites* in *Scotland* suffer for being so, may not the same Thing happen in *England*, especially if there happens to be other strong Reasons creating Suspicion of People in Power, such as a Man having a good Estate that may lie to their Convenience, or a good deal of Money: But what I thought the worst of all, my L——, who can hinder the most Judicious of those who may think themselves under Cover from such Pursuits, I mean the Generality of the lower Rank of People in *Britain*; to consider, that such a Scheme of *Destruction* can't easily be pursued, that People will not willingly lay down their Necks, and consequently, that there must be proper Measures taken to oblige them to it, even after this Insurrection is quelled, such as Forts and Garrisons made and maintain'd in different Parts of this Kingdom, a great standing Army kept up, and that most compos'd of *Foreigners*, for it is not natural to think that one half of the Nation would go heartily to work to destroy the other, nor have we any great Reason from Observation to think that, that Confidence would be put in them: What a dreadful Prospect then, if you consider it rightly my D— L—— must this afford to every true thinking *Briton*, and what Security or Reason have we to persuade

suade ourselves, that an Army of Ger—s, whether H—ns or Hef—ns, having the Power in their Hands after quelling this Insurrection, and destroying Root and Branch of every Body they thought proper to suspect of wishing well to it, should not treat us in the same Manner as their Countrymen the Saxons did of old the antient Britons, who sent for them to their Aid; this Country is at least as much Superiour to theirs in every Respect as it was then, and consequently it may not unreasonably be fear'd, that they may be equally fond of changing for the better.

These, my D— L—, are Consequences that most People will naturally draw from the Contents of your L—'s Letter, as coming from you, of whom the receiv'd Opinion for good Sense, especially in this Part of the World, has been so advantageous for some Time; but how much more dangerous and pernicious to the Government must they prove, if the Art and Rhetorick of our Enemies should so influence the Timidity and Suspicion natural to the weaker Sort, as well as the better grounded Diffidence belonging to the wisest and most judicious, as to bring them to a general Belief, that when your L—, or such as you, talk at this rate, as you are employ'd by People in Power, that you are as much the Oracle of their Sentiments as the Canal of their Authority, in which Case my D— L—, might not our Enemies argue thus to the People? *Is it not obvious, say they, what Course you must determine to take, nay, what Resource in Reason is left you, but to throw yourselves into the Arms of this young and daring Invader, who says, he has an Hereditary Right to reign over you, who is supported by a formidable Party of your own Countrymen, who seem equally bold and determin'd with himself, which must make the Event at least doubtful, and who makes all the Protestations, and offers all the Security Man can give to support you in your Liberties and Properties, both religious and civil, and far from threatening Ruin and Revenge on those whom he may suspect to have been his Enemies, offers a free and willing Pardon to the most inveterate amongst them, upon their Submission and Return to their Duty, and from whom you can never apprehend either Extirpation or Slavery, as he has neither Foreigners nor foreign Interest to prefer to yours, which must of Course be his own.* This my D— L— is the Way, I say, our cunning and designing Adversaries may argue from your L—'s Letter, and tho' 'tis impossible for any who know his Majesty, to entertain the least Moment's Suspicion that he should Countenance your L— Doctrine, or that ever any Minister under him durst own such Sentiments, or hope they should escape unpunish'd, by a Monarch, whose Love and Regard for his Subjects, (I mean his British Subjects,) and the Favour and Preference he has always shown them upon all Occasions, has been the most distinguishing as well as endearing Part of his Character; yet as your L—'s Letter is made publick, and consequently liable to be made very bad Use of, and that People must suppose, that you either had a Confidence put in you by some Body in Power, which made you advance what you did, in which Case you have been guilty, if not of Breach of Trust, at least of the greatest Piece of Indiscretion, in pulling of the Mask as you call it, and exposing their Sentiments and Designs, before the Event of Things was a little more assur'd; or if no such Person in Authority made you any such Confidence, that then you have not only taken the most rash and unwarrantable Step, but likewise laid your Loyalty, Duty, and Fidelity open to the strongest Sus-
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picion; I therefore can't but think it incumbent upon you to preserve your Reputation, as well as the Character of a loyal and faithful Subject, to vindicate yourself from being the Author of this Letter, or if that unluckily can't be done, to recant at least while it is yet Time, the vile Principles it contains, and not only declare your own Detestation of them, but satisfy the Publick, as I hope you can easily do, that no Body in Power ever gave you any Grounds to advance such dangerous and pernicious Tenets; in doing this, my L——, you'll do nothing but your Duty, but I thought it mine to give this Advice, both for my Concern for the Government, and in Return for that you were at the Pains to give me, and which I wish you had consider'd a little more seriously yourself, as you may probably have more Occasion for it than I, notwithstanding your Practice and Dexterity in shifting Sides: And now my D— L—— tho' I could, as you know, say a great deal more upon this Subject; I can't but think, that what I have already said, will be thought more than sufficient to prove to all impartial Men, the Sincerity of my Intentions to the Government, as well as to shew that I am as much as I ought to be, my D— L——,

B———ly,
Dec. 20, 1745.

Yours, &c.



